In the Claims

- 1 16. (Cancelled)
- 17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 33, wherein the plug and container tube can be interlocked at any moment at the will of the user.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 33, wherein the further comprising a connecting means [[is]] integral with the apparatus sleeve.
- 19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 33, wherein the connecting means is a divisible clamp.
- 20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 33, wherein the physical transformation is a rupture or tear of the connecting means.
- 21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 33, wherein interlocking of the apparatus sleeve is made by irreversibly driving sliding the container tube into the apparatus sleeve.
- 22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 33, wherein the apparatus sleeve and the container tube are made of different materials.
- 23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 33, wherein the apparatus sleeve is composed of a material that allows engraving an indelible and unitary identification.
- 24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the apparatus sleeve is composed of a material that allows reading of the elevated engraving.
- 25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 18, wherein the connecting means is a tongue that can be integrated in a definitive and non-replaceable manner with the apparatus sleeve and the plug.

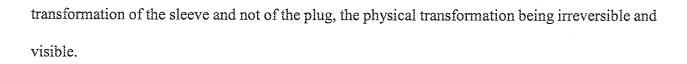
- 26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein integration of the tongue is carried out with an adhesive band that can not be violated by tearing.
- 27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] <u>25</u>, wherein integration of the tongue is carried out by welding.
- 28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[16]] 23, further comprising a housing that allows insertion of a physical element containing at least one piece of information associated with the contents.
- 29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [[23]] <u>28</u>, wherein insertion is carried out without masking the identification engraving and in an irreversible manner.
- 30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein insertion is carried out without masking the identification engraving and in an irreversible manner.
- 31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein insertion is carried out in an irreversible manner.
 - 32. (Cancelled)
 - 33. (New) A unit that receives biological specimens comprising: a sleeve;

a tube shaped and sized to contain biological specimens and to slide into the sleeve and provided with a system that interlocks the sleeve on the tube in a single direction at first and second levels; and

a plug having an opening,

wherein after interlocking at the first level, the sleeve is integrated to the tube in a single direction and after interlocking at the second level, the opening of the plug brings about a physical

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